
SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

February 2001

VOLUME 38, NO. 2

MLK Day march and rally

Thanks for joining us!

by Suzanne Hamada

In an effort to speak out for reform of the criminal justice system and to support other communities of color, 19 people representing our Seattle Chapter participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rally and March held on January 15th at the Garfield High School Gym.

During the rally, many leaders of various communities spoke. Ryan Chin, National VP of Public Affairs, gave an uplifting speech calling upon all of us to "just say yes" to providing people convicted of drug use and possession with drug treatment programs

Chapter supports API Coalition's Legislative Day

by Arlene Oki

The Seattle Chapter JACL joins the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) of King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties in support of the API Legislative Day in Olympia, Thursday, March 1. Participants will gather in the Capitol Rotunda at 10:00 AM to see cultural performances and to listen as the governor and legislative leaders address issues important to the API community. Following the program, APIs will visit legislators who represent their districts to share their concerns about state programs and policies. With over 2,000 participants, the annual API Legislative Day is one of the largest advocacy events during the legislative session.

APIC is also sponsoring community briefings to discuss state legislative issues affecting APIs. Many of the issues will be presented to the governor and state legislators at the Legislative Day event on March 1. The community briefing for residents of King and Snohomish Counties is scheduled at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 30 in the Asian Counseling and Referral Service conference room, 720 -8th Avenue South. For more information and to make your reservations for the community briefing, please call 206-695-7600.

The Seattle Chapter urges JACL members and friends to support and participate in these important community events.



Multigenerational JACL contingent marches for civil rights and criminal justice reform at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rally and March January 15.

rather than incarceration. Intermittent bursts of applause signaled that his message clearly resonated with the audience. In addition, Akemi Matsumoto, President-elect, presented the MLK Jr. Celebration Committee with a \$100 donation from the chapter as a sign of solidarity and partnership.

Over 2,500 people made the trek from Garfield High to the King County Jail in downtown Seattle. It was heartening to see people of all communities come together for a common cause. Equally encouraging was the number of children that participated, including the six representing our chapter. Our legacy will endure.

It was a worthwhile event. By remembering Dr. King, we honor all those who have struggled for equality and justice. Next year we hope to increase our representation, please join us. Thank you to all who did participate!

Board Retreat Jan 13, 2001

'A fun and exhausting day'

by Akemi Matsumoto

The 2001 board met all day at Nikkei Manor on Saturday, January 13, learning to communicate across our differences more effectively. Like all Japanese American community organizations, we are challenged by the wide variety of communication styles and values as we transition from Nisei leadership to younger, more diverse board members. Donna Stringer and Andy Reynolds from Executive Diversity Services facilitated our retreat, donating their time to our organization.

Our mission is to preserve Japanese American values and heritage, and to promote civil rights for all. The day started with each board member sharing their story about joining Seattle JACL—a review of each board member's involvement. From the past, we moved to the present, discussing generational differences in values and communication styles. We set norms for how we will work together as a board this year.

At the end of the day, each board member wrote one goal for our Chapter for the coming year.

At the end of the retreat, each board member received a board notebook with all of our standard operating procedures, clarifica-

See "Board retreat" on page 2

Eat well, establish new ties

January is a busy time for new chapter president

by Akemi Matsumoto

Being President of Seattle JACL for just this first month (January) has given me an appreciation of the strength, variety, and vibrancy of the Seattle Nikkei community. As your representative, I was invited to the Seattle Betsuin New Year's party which brought out the entire temple community of 500 celebrating with food cooked for days by the members and entertainment from the Dharma school children.

Next, I was invited to the New Year Celebration at the Japanese Consul General's mansion. Consul Fumiko Saiga is a gracious hostess many organizations in the Nikkei community were represented. The next week I felt honored to be a guest at the 100th Anniversary of the Seattle Hiroshima Club at the Doubletree Suites. To be part of a Japanese American tradition that is 100 years old was a privilege.

I was also invited as your representative to the New Year buffet luncheon of the Japanese Community Service of Seattle but

unfortunately could not attend as it was the same time as our JACL Board Retreat. January is a special time as the new year begins. Not only did I eat well, but I was able to establish ties as your new president from Seattle JACL.

Finally, just last Friday, I went to the Seattle Sansei meeting at Nisei Vets Hall. All of our Japanese American community based organizations face the challenge of remaining relevant in our rapidly changing community. We are more geographically dispersed, multiracial, and multiethnic—a reflection of the greater U.S. society. When the new census data comes out in March, I hope JACL and several other organizations can hold a community forum to address our collective futures.

I hope every month in this role as Chapter President is as fun as this one. I thank you all for the opportunity. Happy New Year once again.

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Additional thanks

We also wish to thank Kato Security for changing our office locks and donating new keys this January.

President Clinton names Minidoka a National Monument

from National JACL Headquarters

In one of his last official acts, President Clinton invoked his authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act and designated approximately 73 acres in Hunt, Jerome County (Idaho) as the "Minidoka Internment National Monument." More than 9,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated at Minidoka during World War II.

The President's action will protect historic structures and objects associated with the forced evacuation and incarceration of Japanese Americans. The monument will also ensure the proper care of these structures and will provide opportunities for public education and interpretation of an important chapter in American history.

Board retreat, continued from front page

tion of parliamentary procedures, and detailed job descriptions for board members and officers. With this training, we hope to be a stronger, more effective board for the Seattle JACL. It was a fun and exhausting day.

JACL is grateful to Nikkei Manor for donating their meeting space and to Executive Diversity Services for their facilitation. Both helped to make our day!

"The JACL is deeply appreciative of all the work the President and his administration has done to protect the internment camps and preserve this history for future generations," commented S. Floyd Mori, Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) National President who attended the naming ceremony. "We also thank the Idaho delegation and Representative Mike Simpson for their support of efforts to protect Minidoka."

Added JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi, "This designation is a direct result of the President's commitment to preserving the camps and the Department of the Interior's work to develop recommendations on how best to do so. The JACL looks forward to working with the next administration, the Congress and camp reunion and preservation groups to do whatever is possible to protect the other internment camps."

During its operation from August 1942 to October 1945, Minidoka housed Japanese Americans forcibly removed from Washington State, Oregon and Alaska. The camp covered more than 33,000 acres of land with administrative and residential facilities located on approximately 950 acres. The designated 73 acres includes the remains of the sentry house, waiting room, administrative structures, warehouses and other historic structures and objects.

Membership

Individual

Nellie Fujii Anderson
Takahiko Asaba
Bi Hoa Caldwell
Theodore S Chihara
Eva Chikusa
Lee Y Dogen
J Kiiko Fisk
Haruo Harry Fujino
Mary S Fukuyama
Arthur S Gorai
Shuko Y Hara
Rachel Hidaka
Albert G Hikida
Debra Hiraki
Samuel Y Hokari
Steven Idemoto (New)
Tsuguo Ikeda
Miyeko Ishihara
Brian M Ito
Woodrow S Ito
Yo Kaneko
Shohei Karibe
Chiyuki Kashiwagi
Sue S Kitasaki
Christopher A Kodama
Teru Kiyohara
Anna Kurata
Catherine Lowenberg
(New)
Lori Matsukawa
Akemi Matsumoto
Frank McLain
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Yoshito Mizuta

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Stanley N Shikuma
Nancy Shioyama
Arthur S Susumi
Mariko Tanagi
Florence Teshima
Tama Tokuda
Dolly M Tokunaga
Massie Tomita
Saburo Tsuboi
Lawrence Tsunoda
Susan Walsh
Masao Watanabe
Jack Yamashita
Kiku Yano
Barbara Yasui
Arthur S Yorozu

Couples/Family

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Akira
Alan and Dawn Furushima
Ken and Akiko Higashi
Tom and Sally Hirai
Kenji and Chiyo Ikejiri
Dwight and Cynthia Imanaka
Kaz and Masue Ishimitsu
Andy and Colleen Iwano
Ben and Lucille Kodama
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Tosh and Tomi Mano
Barney and Pat Matsumoto
Howard and Sumiko Minato
Paul and Yoshiko Minato
Ernest and Sanaye Nagai
Junzo and Masaye Nakagawa
Katsu and Grace Sakai
Calvin and Naoko Takagi
Kip and Barbara Tokuda
Tom Yaguchi

Thousand Club

Fujiko Hori
Martha Kawaguchi
Century Club
Shigeo Uno

Student/Boosters

Suzanne Hamada (New)
Drew Matsumoto
J C Sullivan

Membership Categories

Individual	\$50
Couple	\$85
1000 Club/Century	\$70-\$140
Spouse	\$40
Lifetime	\$1,000-\$2,000
Student/Youth (up to 25 years of age)	\$20
Boosters (Seattle JACL only)	
Regular	\$20
Seniors	\$15

Membership questions should be directed to Bill Tashima at (206) 525-0531, or <buber@aol.com>.

Donations

Bi Hoa Caldwell
Lawrence Tsunoda
Mako Nakagawa

Thank You!!!

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SAVE THE DATE

"2001: A Career Odyssey"

21st Annual Dinner
Thursday, March 8, 2001
Seattle Sheraton Hotel and Towers

Tickets \$60
For more information, call (206) 322-9080

Seattle Chapter JACL is a non-profit, grassroots civil rights organization dedicated to empowering our local community through high-quality programs and strategic partnerships focusing on activism, education, and youth leadership development. As a chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, we strive to be a leading Asian American advocacy group for civil and human rights while promoting and preserving the values and cultural heritage of Japanese Americans.

Our primary means of carrying out our mission is a monthly meeting, held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the chapter office (316 Maynard Ave. S., Seattle) except August. All are welcome. (Those wishing to make presentations or be added to the meeting agenda should contact President Akemi Matsumoto.)

Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is published a week after the third Wednesday of each month by the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, Washington, 98118-0558. Office address: 316 Maynard Ave. South, Seattle, Washington, 98104. Ph.: 622-4098

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Board members should submit materials to the editor (<shimaito@home.com>, fax 206-722-2044, 6621 S. Bangor St., Seattle, WA 98178) by the Friday after the monthly board meeting.

Calendar items emphasize chapter or community events not likely to be covered by community newspapers or by other newsletters.

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Please let us know your concerns.

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